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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE ENGINEERING AND SERVICES CENTER
TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 32403



TO EC
WJM

28 JUL 1981

RDV

Update on Herbicide Orange

See Distribution

The attached Quarterly Update on the Environmental Chemistry of Herbicide Orange is forwarded for your information. Any questions should be addressed to my project officer, Capt Ronald E. Channell, Chief of our Environmental Chemistry Branch, AV970-4298.

Michael J. Ryan

MICHAEL J. RYAN, LtCol, USAF, BSC
Chief, Environics Division

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2. Quarterly Update

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QUARTERLY UPDATE
ON
ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY OF HERBICIDE ORANGE

BACKGROUND: Past Herbicide Orange storage sites at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi; and Johnston Island, Pacific Ocean; and those areas of Eglin AFB, Florida, which were used for Ranch Hand operational testing are now contaminated with 2, 3, 7, 8 - tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) which was a highly toxic contaminant of the herbicide. OSAF/MIQ has stressed the need to determine possible methods for assuring that TCDD is not transported off the federal installations and to decontaminate the sites. The AFESC Engineering and Services Laboratory (ESL) has been given overall responsibility for monitoring and reclamation research.

STATUS:

- Following the ESL Technical Review by HQ AFSC/DL, the ESL was directed by DLWM in a 29 Apr 81 letter to proceed with the Herbicide Orange program at a minimal effort involving site monitoring and assessment of the contaminated sites. If further direction comes to HQ AFSC/DL from HQ AF that actual clean up will be carried out, then the program should be expanded at that time.
- The ESL has continued the site monitoring program by collecting samples from the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), Eglin AFB and Johnston Island during May and Jun 81. Samples are scheduled to be collected on a semiannual basis. Next sampling is scheduled for Nov 81.
- The Statement of Operational Need is in the final stages of validation.
- The contract for analysis of samples in support of the site monitoring program is in the final stages of evaluation/negotiations. Contract signing is anticipated before 1 Aug 81.
- The ESL participated in the Region 4 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on-site visit to Eglin AFB on 5 May 81. The purpose of the on-site visit was for the EPA to become educated on the status of the Herbicide Orange test areas on Eglin AFB. EPA interest was generated by local newspaper articles. At the conclusion of our presentation/discussion, the EPA appeared to be completely satisfied with the site monitoring program, that the contamination is contained and controlled and that the AF is handling the problem effectively. Mr W.G. Dodson, AFRCE-ER, Atlanta, GA, participated in the visit.
- Received an inquiry from Mr. Musick, Gulf Coast Group of the Mississippi Chapter of the Sierra Club, concerning site monitoring at NCBC. The ESL responded by letter answering questions concerning sample collection, analysis, and future site monitoring plans.
- The ESL continues to coordinate this program with administrative and research personnel of the EPA and USAF OEHL.

Captain Channell
HQ AFESC/RDVS/4297
22 July 1981

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